

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES
OF
PUBLIC RESERVATIONS

1896



PRINTED FOR THE TRUSTEES BY
GEO. H. ELLIS, 141 FRANKLIN STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

1897

Societies and individuals interested in Massachusetts history, natural history, scenery, and town and country improvement, are invited to contribute to the working funds of this Board. The annual reports can be promised only to Founders, Life Associates, and Contributors. (See By-laws, Article II.) The Treasurer is George Wigglesworth, 89 State Street, Boston. The Secretary is John Woodbury, 114 Ames Building, Boston, Mass.

VIRGINIA WOOD

given into the keeping of the
TRUSTEES of PUBLIC RESERVATIONS

by

FANNY FOSTER TUDOR

in memory of her daughter

VIRGINIA TUDOR

1894

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

1896.

President.

HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, Worcester.

Vice-President.

GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield.

Standing Committee.

CHARLES ELIOT, Brookline, *Chairman.*

PHILIP A. CHASE, Lynn.

CHARLES S. SARGENT, Brookline.

HENRY P. WALCOTT, Cambridge.

NATHANIEL T. KIDDER, Milton.

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, 89 State St., Boston, *Treasurer.*

JOHN WOODBURY, 114 Ames Building, Boston, *Secretary.*

FRANCIS H. APPLETON, Lynnfield.

FRANKLIN CARTER, Williamstown.

GEORGE W. CHASE, North Adams.

* WILLIAM L. CHASE, Brookline.

CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, Northampton.

CHARLES R. CODMAN, Cotuit.

ELISHA S. CONVERSE, Malden.

DELORAINÉ P. COREY, Malden.

CHARLES H. DALTON, Boston.

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, Salem.

GEORGE A. FARLOW, Boston.

DESMOND FITZGERALD, Brookline.

J. D. W. FRENCH, North Andover.

E. B. GILLET, Westfield.

* Deceased.

J. EVARTS GREENE, Worcester.
 JAMES S. GRINNELL, Greenfield.
 AUGUSTUS HEMENWAY, Canton.
 HENRY M. LOVERING, Taunton.
 GEORGE C. MANN, Jamaica Plain.
 HENRY L. PARKER, Worcester.
 CHARLES S. RACKEMANN, Milton.
 JOHN ROBINSON, Salem.
 JOHN J. RUSSELL, Plymouth.
 * LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Newton.
 NATHANIEL S. SHALER, Tisbury.
 HENRY R. SHAW, Boston.
 GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield.
 * WILLIAM S. SHURTLEFF, Springfield.
 * DANIEL D. SLADE, Newton.
 JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield.
 GEORGE H. TUCKER, Pittsfield.
 * FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.
 WILLIAM WHITING, Holyoke.
 MOSES WILLIAMS, Brookline.

FOUNDERS.

Miss ELLEN CHASE, Brookline. * Mrs. FANNY FOSTER TUDOR, Boston.
 JOSEPH STORY FAY, Falmouth.

LIFE ASSOCIATES.

* Francis Brooks, Boston.
 Mrs. Francis Brooks, Boston.
 Henry Brooks, West Medford.
 Peter C. Brooks, Boston.
 Shepherd Brooks, Boston.
 George A. Farlow, Boston.
 John M. Forbes, Milton.
 H. H. Hunnewell, Boston.

Miss M. C. Jackson, Boston.
 N. T. Kidder, Milton.
 W. C. Loring, Boston.
 Mrs. John C. Phillips, Boston.
 Charles S. Sargent, Brookline.
 John E. Thayer, South Lancaster.
 William Whiting, Holyoke.
 George Wigglesworth, Boston.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS, CHAPTER 352, ACTS OF 1891.

SECTION 1. Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Elisha S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of The Trustees of Public Reservations, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth, with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in chapter one hundred and fifteen of the Public Statutes and in such other general laws as now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations; but said corporation shall have no capital stock.

SECT. 2. Said corporation may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, but not exceeding one million dollars in value, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or proper to support or promote the objects of the corporation, but not exceeding in the aggregate the further sum of one million dollars.

SECT. 3. All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened and kept open to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable, and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not open to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years. Said corporation shall never make any division or dividend of or from its property or income among its members.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

BY-LAWS OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

OF MEMBERS.

The members of the corporation shall be residents of Massachusetts, and their number shall not exceed fifty.

The Standing Committee may, if it sees fit, nominate persons to membership by inserting the names of candidates upon the notice or warning of any meeting. The election shall take place at any meeting subsequent to such notice, and shall be by ballot upon the names proposed by the Standing Committee; and any person who receives the votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting shall, on his acceptance in writing of his election, be declared and enrolled a member of the corporation. Membership may be terminated by resignation, and shall be terminated by failure for three successive years to attend the annual meeting; but in the latter case the Standing Committee may by vote suspend the operation of this rule when it sees best.

ARTICLE II.

OF FOUNDERS, LIFE ASSOCIATES, AND CONTRIBUTORS.

All persons from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one thousand dollars or more shall be permanently enrolled as Founders.

All persons not entitled to be enrolled as Founders, from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one hundred dollars or more, shall be enrolled during life as Life Associates.

All persons, societies, or corporations not entitled to be enrolled as Founders or Life Associates, from whom the corporation

shall receive one or more dollars, shall be enrolled as contributors for the year in which payment of such sum is made.

ARTICLE III.

OF MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held on the last Wednesday in January in Boston or at such other city or town in the Commonwealth, and at such time and place, as the Standing Committee may determine. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of not less than seven members, but a majority of the members present and voting may adjourn any meeting from time to time until the business shall have been finished.

In the event of the annual meeting, by mistake or otherwise, not being called and held as herein prescribed, the Standing Committee shall order a special meeting to be called and held in lieu of and for the purposes of the annual meeting.

Special meetings of the corporation may be called by the Standing Committee, to meet at any time and place. A quorum at a special meeting shall consist of not less than seven members.

2. At all meetings the President shall take the chair as soon as a quorum is present; and the record of the preceding meeting shall then be read, unless such reading is dispensed with by the unanimous consent of those present. After which at all special meetings the business for which the meeting was called shall be transacted, and at the annual meeting the order of business shall be as follows:—

First.—The unfinished business and the assignments of the last meeting shall be announced by the Secretary to the President, and taken up in order.

Second.—The Secretary shall be called on to submit a written report of the doings of the Standing Committee for the year ending with the previous 31st of December.

Third.—The Treasurer shall be called upon to submit a written report of his doings for the year ending with the previous 31st of December, and the financial condition of the corporation at that date.

Fourth.—The Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts shall be called on for a report.

Fifth.— Any special committee which may have been appointed during the year shall be called on to report.

Sixth.— If the Standing Committee shall have proposed changes in the By-laws, the same shall be voted upon, as provided in Article VII.

Seventh.— If the Standing Committee shall have made any nominations to membership in the corporation, an election shall be held, as provided in Article I.

Eighth.— An election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held as provided in Article IV., Section 1.

Ninth.— On the announcement of the vote the newly elected President shall take the chair, and shall give the members present an opportunity to present new business.

Tenth.— The newly elected President shall appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

ARTICLE IV.

OF OFFICERS.

1. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be *ex-officiis* members of the Standing Committee, which shall consist of seven persons in all. The officers and the Standing Committee shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the corporation, an adjournment thereof, or at a meeting in lieu of such annual meeting, as above provided; and they shall hold their offices for one year, or until others are duly chosen and qualified in their stead. Any vacancy occurring in any of the above offices from death, resignation, or inability, shall be filled by the Standing Committee at their next regular meeting or at a special meeting to be called for the purpose before such regular meeting.

2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation. If he is absent, the Vice-President, and, if the Vice-President is also absent, a President *pro tempore*, chosen by hand vote of the members of the corporation present, shall preside, and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President.

3. The Secretary shall warn the members of all meetings of

the corporation, according as he may be directed by votes of the Standing Committee. He shall call the meetings of the Standing Committee as he may be directed by the chairman of the committee or on the request in writing of any two members thereof. He shall carry on all the correspondence of the corporation not otherwise provided for, and shall, when the correspondence is of importance, preserve copies of the letters sent and the original letters received, for transmission with his records to his successor in office. He shall keep an exact record of all meetings of the corporation and of the Standing Committee, with the names of the members present, entering in full all reports of committees which may be accepted by either body, unless otherwise directed.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of the doings of that body for the year ending on the previous 31st of December; and, if the report is approved, he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

4. The Treasurer shall, when directed, as provided in the next paragraph, make disbursements; and he shall also collect all moneys due to the corporation, and shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all the moneys and funds of the corporation which shall come into his hands and of all receipts and expenditures connected with the same, which accounts shall always be open to the inspection of members of the corporation. He shall make no investments and pay no moneys without either the approval of a majority of the Standing Committee or else of such officer or committee as said Standing Committee shall appoint to act for it in these matters.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of his doings for the year ending on the previous 31st of December; and, if his report is approved, he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee shall, at its first meeting after the annual meeting of the corporation in each year, elect a chairman,

whose duty it shall be to preside at all meetings of the committee. In his absence a chairman *pro tempore* may be chosen by hand vote.

The Standing Committee shall meet at least once in every month, and a quorum shall consist of not less than three members.

The Standing Committee may nominate or refuse to nominate new members of the corporation, may accept or decline gifts offered to the corporation, may approve or disapprove investments or expenditures proposed by the Treasurer, may approve or disapprove all bills against the corporation, may appoint sub-committees of their number, may appoint and remove agents, may engage whatever assistance is needed to administer the affairs of the corporation, may designate such agents and employees by such titles as they may deem proper, and, in general, may exercise all the executive powers of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE SEAL.

The corporate seal shall be a circular, flat-faced die of about an inch and a half in diameter, with the name of the corporation, the year of its organization, the word "Massachusetts," and the figure of a pine-tree so engraved on its face that it can be embossed on paper by pressure.

ARTICLE VII.

OF AMENDMENTS.

At any annual meeting of the corporation, or at a special meeting called for the purpose, these By-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed change shall have been given in the call of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee of the Trustees of Public Reservations submit herewith their Sixth Annual Report.

Virginia Wood, the earliest gift to the public placed in the hands of the Trustees, having become an integral part of the Middlesex Fells Reservation of the Metropolitan Park System, continues to require but little oversight on the part of this Board. The intention expressed in the last Report, of having its bounds permanently marked, has been carried out. A bronze tablet stating the facts concerning this gift has been prepared, and will be affixed to a ledge or bowlder in the Wood as soon as the weather will permit. Beyond the care of the trees, which are among the most beautiful of the Fells, little remains to be done except the construction of a few paths and simple rustic bridges. Co-operation in development of this nature can well be expected from the Metropolitan Park Commission, in whose care this reservation still remains.

Goodwill Park in Falmouth, the gift of Joseph Story Fay, placed in the hands of the Trustees for the benefit of the people of that town, has continued in the immediate charge of the local committee, acting under the direction of this Committee. A bronze tablet, giving the particulars of the gift, was placed early in the year on one of the posts of the western entrance to the park and a photograph of the completed entrance served as an illustration to the last Annual Report, when it appeared in printed form. The cost of this tablet (\$73.87) was paid out of the contributions (\$200) placed by Mr. Fay in the hands of the local committee to be ex-

pended in the reservation, leaving a balance in their hands of \$126.13. In 1895 and again in 1896 the town of Falmouth appropriated two hundred dollars for the care and development of Goodwill Park; and out of these appropriations have been paid, under the direction of the local committee, the expenses of improving and making the entrance to the park, repairing of roads, trimming of trees, and the like. A fire belt thirty feet wide has also been cut out along the northern boundary from the town way on the easterly boundary to the pond. It has been suggested that further roads should be constructed, and a new approach be built from the eastern side. Before proceeding to make further changes, even of a simple character, it would seem wise to determine upon a general plan for future development of the entire tract, to the end that its simple and lovely character be as far preserved as its growing use by visitors will permit. If a general scheme of treatment for the park were adopted, it might be confidently expected that the town would furnish from year to year the means for carrying out the details as fast as desirable. The result would be that no waste of time or money need occur, and in the end a harmonious development would be assured.

One new and particularly charming parcel of land is, at this writing, on the point of being transferred to the custody of this Board. Where Charles River forms the boundary between the townships of Medfield and Sherborn there is a place where the narrow stream flows between a bank of woods and a high hemlock knoll, behind which lies a sunny meadow, bordered by more high woods. Locally, the little gorge is known as Rocky Narrows, and the little meadow as the Dingle Hole; but many canoe men from the neighborhood of Boston know the place as the "Gate of the Charles." The eastern bank of the river at this point forms a part of the domain surrounding the State Asylum in Medfield, and is thus the property of the Commonwealth. About twenty acres on the western bank have now been

purchased from two owners by a generous advocate of the preservation of beautiful places, who will convey the property to the Trustees on the completion of the necessary papers. It is expected that the custodians of the State lands on the eastern bank will be watchful of the use that may be made of the western bank by occasional boating and picnic parties. The purchaser of this domain is to be congratulated on having added a remarkably beautiful natural picture to the collection which this Board is empowered to care for.

In this connection it has been noted with interest that the Joint Commission, composed of the State Board of Health and the Metropolitan Park Commission, has recommended legislation which would place so much of Charles River as lies within the metropolitan district under the control of a Board of Commissioners, who should have power to regulate the use of the water by proprietors of mill-dams, in such a way as to maintain a fairly constant level. The same commission would have power to make by-laws governing the use of the stream by boats, to provide for the enforcement of such by-laws by a river police, to maintain runways and locks at the dams, to acquire and maintain public landings and strips of land on the stream banks for the protection of the scenery, and so on.

Much of the most charming and most easily destroyed scenery of Massachusetts is found along the banks of ponds and streams ; and this Committee believes it would be for the advantage of the Commonwealth if narrow strips of such waterside lands could be secured by interested and generous citizens and given into its charge for safe keeping. Many such strips are found between country roads and streams or ponds, and many other strips of similarly useless but beautiful land are to be found bordering roads in rocky or steep places. Nothing could more directly help to keep the State a pleasant and beautiful place to live in than such preserving of the most interesting parts of the local roadside scenery. Such strips, as well as hill-tops, ravines, bits of seashore, and

any remarkably beautiful spots, will always be gladly taken charge of by this Board, provided some little money to form a maintenance fund comes with each gift.

The preservation of places of antiquarian, historic, or literary interest, by placing them in the care of this Board, will also furnish worthy objects for enthusiastic generosity. For example, there still remain in a few places visible traces of Indian villages and earthworks of the Indian wars. Of the north-western frontier posts known as Forts Shirley, Pelham, and Massachusetts, the sites of two still remain in private hands. Fort Massachusetts has been fortunately secured by the local Historical Society of North Adams. It is understood that steps have lately been taken to preserve the President Adams houses in Quincy, the Whittier house in Amesbury, and the General Putnam place in Rutland. Scattered throughout the State are still other places of more strictly scientific interest, which ought to be permanently preserved from possible destruction; for example, a few remarkable botanical localities, such as rhododendron or holly thickets, and a few places of extraordinary interest to geologists.

Outside of and beyond all attempts to thoroughly preserve the charm or interest of particular spots, it seems important to your Committee that the general scenery of the country should be protected by law from all unnecessary defacements, such as that which the recent wide-spread placarding of huge advertisements has caused. This Board has noted with interest during the past year several marked signs of general disgust at the doings of the advertisers. For example, the State of New York has passed an act granting powers to the Park Department of the city of New York which will enable them to control all advertising within three hundred and fifty feet of any public park or parkway. The Boston Metropolitan Park Commission proposes to protect its reservations by making the acceptance of a restriction forbidding advertising a condition precedent to the use

of the park border roads by adjacent land-owners. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, by instituting cash prizes for the best appearing properties along its lines, is competing with the advertisers with excellent results. The English society for checking the abuses of advertising is pressing a bill in Parliament, which, if enacted, will institute "local option" in this matter by empowering such communities as accept the provisions of the act to frame and enforce strict by-laws regulating the practice of public advertising.

This is a matter with respect to which Massachusetts ought to show the way for other States to follow.

During the year a considerable number of projected gifts have been examined and considered by this Committee. For obvious reasons, only those which have resulted in an actual transfer of property to this Board are mentioned in this report. In several cases it is expected that desirable additions to the public holdings in the care of the Trustees will be made during the coming year. In one case consideration of a possible gift of a lovely bit of scenery was stopped, at least temporarily, by the death of the person from whom the gift would have come. In several cases the committee were compelled by the absence of any provision for maintenance after acquirement to refuse propositions for placing certain lands in the hands of the Trustees, and in some cases gifts offered them did not appear to have such elements of scenic or historic interest as would warrant their acceptance. The Committee, however, has felt it their duty to give every case due investigation and consideration, and to encourage the presentation to them, for investigation and consideration, of all possible opportunities of carrying out the purposes for which the Trustees were incorporated by the Commonwealth.

The Trustees have again to note the loss of members of the corporation. Mr. Daniel D. Slade was present at the last annual meeting, and spoke interestingly of his investiga-

tions of the site of Fort Shirley. Francis A. Walker was one of the original incorporators; and a letter as late as November 16, to our President, evinces his continued interest in the work of this Board.

CHARLES ELIOT,

Chairman.

PHILIP A. CHASE.

CHARLES S. SARGENT.

HENRY P. WALCOTT.

NATHANIEL T. KIDDER.

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH,

Treasurer.

JOHN WOODBURY,

Secretary.

JAN. 20, 1897.

Dr.	VIRGINIA WOOD.	Cr.	
1896.		1896.	
Jan. 1.		Dec. 31.	
To Balance	\$395.15	By Balance	\$385.15
March 5.			
To Coupons Great North- ern Ry. 4's	40.00		
Dec. 9.			
To Coupons Great North- ern Ry. 4's	40.00		
	<u>\$385.15</u>		<u>\$385.15</u>
1897.			
Jan. 1.	To Balance	\$385.15	

Securities held for the Virginia Wood Fund, \$2,000; Great Northern Ry. 4 Per Cent. Bonds, due 1902, \$1,840.

The undersigned have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer of the Trustees of Public Reservations for the year 1896, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

NATHANIEL T. KIDDER,
CHARLES S. RACKEMANN,
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE,

Auditing Committee.

JAN. 20, 1897.

